

**Listing of the Claims:**

1. (Original) A method of modulating Sec-dependent protein secretion comprising the steps of:
  - a) introducing a *spoIIIJ* gene linked to an inducible promoter into a *Bacillus* cell; and
  - b) modulating the expression of the *spoIIIJ* gene by varying the level of induction of the inducible promoter.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the inducible promoter is the *Pspac* promoter.
3. (Original) A purified DNA molecule comprising an inducible promoter operatively linked to the *spoIIIJ* gene.
4. (Previously presented) A method of modulating the secretion of a protein of interest, comprising the steps of:
  - a) forming a first DNA molecule encoding a chimeric protein comprising a Sec-dependent secretion signal peptide;
  - b) forming a second DNA molecule encoding an inducible promoter operably linked to the *spoIIIJ* gene;
  - c) transforming a *Bacillus* host cell with the DNA molecule of steps a and b; and
  - d) growing said host cell under conditions wherein the protein of interest is expressed at the desired level.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein said host cell is grown under conditions wherein the inducible promoter is induced.
- 6-9 (Cancelled).
10. (Previously presented) A method of modulating the secretion of a protein of interest, comprising the steps of:

- a) forming a first DNA molecule encoding a chimeric protein comprising a Sec-dependent secretion signal peptide;
- b) forming a second DNA molecule encoding an inducible promoter operably linked to the *yqjG* gene;
- c) transforming a *Bacillus* host cell with the DNA molecule of steps a and b; and
- d) growing said host cell under conditions wherein the protein of interest is expressed at the desired level.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein said host cell is grown under conditions wherein the inducible promoter is induced.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A method of modulating Sec-dependent protein secretion comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a *Bacillus* cell comprising *spoIIIJ* and *yqjG* genes linked to an inducible ~~endogenous high-expression~~ promoter; and
- b) modulating the expression of the *spoIIIJ* and *yqjG* genes by varying the level of induction of said promoter.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the promoter is the P*spac* promoter.